

RADICALISM EXEMPLIFIED.

In order to afford our readers an illustration of the strange political morality, or, we should rather say, immorality, which is countenanced by "radicalism," we cite from the last number of the Boston Commonwealth the following observations in defense of what it calls the extraordinary means taken to procure the control of the House of Representatives in the Congress which is to meet on Monday next:

"The Thirty-eighth Congress is about to assemble. The Senate will have a large Administration majority, and the House one sufficiently large to elect the caucus nominee for speaker, clerk, and other offices. We say this without having carefully examined the tables, for we assume that the Administration would not have resorted to its somewhat extraordinary means of carrying elections in the House States, unless it had been sure that these means, so successfully used, would give it a working majority. We do not find fault with the machinery used to carry Maryland and Delaware. Having nearly lost the control of the House by its blunders in the conduct of the war from March, 1861, to the fall of 1862, the Administration owed it to the country to recover that control somehow. To recover it regularly was impossible; so irregularly had to be resorted to. Popular institutions will not suffer, for the copperhead element will have a much larger number of members in both branches than it is entitled to by its popular vote. Ohio, with its ninety thousand Republican majority, will be represented by five Republicans and a dozen or more copperheads. It is fitting that the misrepresentation of popular sentiment in the great State of the West should be offset, if necessary, by a loyal delegation from Maryland and Delaware. If I have any doubt as to the propriety of this, I have seen the list of names of the members of the House of Representatives in the House of Representatives. We must take care that the aggregate public opinion of the country obtains recognition, somehow or other."

In giving this specimen of political effrontery we would not have our readers suppose that we impute to the Administration as a crime the charge of which this Boston sheet makes itself the supple apologist, on the assumption that the crime had been actually committed. Whatever may have been the motives of Gen. Schenck in taking military surveillance of the elections in Maryland and Delaware, (respecting which we have nothing more to say than we have already said,) we feel bound in candor to acquit the Administration of any complicity in the meditated purges which are deemed by the Commonwealth to afford the only sufficient explanation of the anomalous proceedings it justifies. We know that Gen. Schenck took his initiative in this matter without instructions from the President, who interfered in the premises only for the purpose of countermanding that portion of the orders which, whether so designed or not, would most obviously lend itself to a violent interference with the right of suffrage. If the President had meditated that rape of the elective franchise which the Boston paper ascribes to the Administration, he would not have modified the orders as originally promulgated, for their greatest efficiency as a disturbing element resided in that clause which the President annulled the instant it was brought to his attention.

Nor, if the President had been an accessory before the fact to this outrage on the laws of a loyal State, would he have been so prompt to pledge his word to call to account all officers who might be proved to have committed the excesses charged against them. And it is within our knowledge that charges of the gravest character, supported by affidavits, have been lodged with the President against certain of the agents distributed throughout Maryland for the purpose of carrying General Schenck's orders into effect. In the precautions incident to the impending opening of Congress we presume the President has not found time to give these papers a proper examination, but when he does so, we have the abiding conviction that he will do his duty in the premises, as far as he can repair what, in most of its aspects, is unfortunately irreparable.

But what shall be said of the political recklessness which does not scruple first to impute crime to the Administration and then to apologize for it? Assuming that it was "the Administration" which resorted to "the somewhat extraordinary means of carrying the elections in the Border States," this worthy exponent of "radicalism" does not hesitate to say that it "finds no fault with the machinery used" to secure an Administration majority in the House of Representatives "large enough to elect the caucus nominee for Speaker, Clerk, and other officers." The Administration, it says, having, by its own blunders in the conduct of the war from March, 1861, to the fall of 1862, nearly lost the control of the House, "owed it to the country to recover that control somehow." And, as laws are silent amid the clash of arms, it was most convenient to restore the political balance by throwing the sword into the scale that was in danger of kicking the beam. It was fitting that the loss of political power last autumn in the West should be redressed, "if necessary," by a loyal delegation from Maryland and Delaware, won this year, "even at the expense of military interference." "We must take care that the aggregate public opinion of the country finds recognition somehow or other."

We do not quote these remarks for the purpose of controverting them. We spare ourselves this humiliation, and our readers the insult to their intelligence which would be implied by supposing there could be any necessity to argue against such monstrous assaults on public and political morality. We set them before our readers as a simple illustration of radicalism, in its natural effluence and fruits.

RECRUITS FOR THE REGULAR ARMY.

The time for enlisting recruits in the regular army, under General Orders No. 190, June 25, 1863, and No. 336 of October 16, 1863, has been extended to June 25, 1864, by the War Department, during which time the extra bounty of three hundred dollars will be paid. Recruits hereafter obtained for the regular army are to be credited to the district in which they are enlisted. The following is the order on this subject:

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Washington, November 27, 1863.
SIR: All men who, under the laws of the regular army, under the last call of the President for troops, will be credited upon the quota of the district in which they enlist. Notice of each enlistment must be sent to the Superintendent of Volunteer Recruiting Service for the State, and to the Provost Marshal of the District in which the enlistment is made.

You will immediately notify each recruiting officer under your command of the above, and instruct them to forward to you, with the monthly reports, a separate report (see form on page three of this sheet) of the recruits thus enlisted.

You will forward a consolidated report in that form to this office, with your monthly report; you will in your monthly report, give the names of all officers under your command at the depot, as well as those who are at station. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
E. D. TOWNSEND, Asst. Adj. Gen.
Col. G. Loomis, U. S. A. Supt. Gen. Recruiting Service, Fort Columbus, N. Y. H.

THE CONSERVATIVE PLATFORM.

It is known to our readers that during the sessions of the last Congress, its members, representing different political views with regard to the spirit and manner in which the pending war should be prosecuted, were in the habit of meeting from time to time for the purpose of taking counsel with each other, and determining the line of conduct they should pursue. These meetings were held alike by the "Republicans" and by the "Democratic" and "Union" members of the House of Representatives—the results of their deliberations being severally announced at the time in a series of resolutions which were published in our columns.

A friend who, as a member of the last Congress, actively participated in the deliberations held by the "Conservative" members of that body on the 28th of last June, has requested us to reproduce for the information of our readers the resolutions adopted on that occasion. We accordingly reprint today the entire series. It is known that the late Mr. Crittenden was the chairman of that meeting, and we may add that these resolutions were from the pen of that eminent statesman, who, as the author of the well known resolution, adopted with such unanimity by both Houses, defining the object of the war, was properly selected to indite the declarations which purport to have been conceived and adopted in explanation and reaffirmation of that resolution.

In republishing these resolutions it can hardly be necessary for us to inform our readers that we concur in their general purport at the time they were first promulgated, and greatly as we regret that the mutations of public opinion and the drift of events have combined to divide the loyal sentiment of the country which was once united in its adhesion to the "Crittenden Resolution," we can only repeat, in retrospect of the past and in prospect of the future, that, according to our impressions, all the real or seeming departures from the spirit and letter of that resolution have resulted in damage to the national cause. We know there are others, for whose intelligence and candor we have the highest respect, who do not concur with us in this view, and as we ask for our own opinions the toleration due to the sincerity with which they are held, so we cheerfully concede to all that liberty which independent and honest thought may rightfully claim when exercised upon topics that forbid indifference by their tremendous issues, and which perhaps exclude the hope of unanimity by the difficulty and complexity of the subjects involved in this great discussion. No man held his opinions with more tenacity than the venerable statesman who was the author of these resolutions, and yet none more constantly exemplified in his words and conduct that conciliatory demeanor which is at once the offspring of charity and the bond of patriotism.

MILITARY CRITICISMS.

We find in a late number of the New York Tribune an elaborate review of the military operations which, in the Department of Tennessee, immediately preceded and attended the repulse of the army of Gen. Rosecrans in the battles of Chickamauga.

This review, which is very minute and apparently authentic in its statements, has been evidently prepared by one having access to official sources of information, and as it is avowedly published in violation of the removal of Gen. Rosecrans from his command, it may be proper for us to reproduce the salient points of the writer's representations, because there are those—our readers know that we are not of the number—who have supposed themselves to find grounds of grave complaint against the Administration on account of its decision in regard to that officer.

Availing ourselves partially of the condensation of the reviewer's statements, as contained in the same number of the paper which gives them currency, we may say that it appears from their purport that our military authorities in this city, after having had their patience severely tried by the antecedent "delays" of Gen. Rosecrans, assumed the responsibility of the issue of the campaign up to the time of the fall of Chattanooga by ordering Gen. Rosecrans preemptorily to cross the Tennessee river.

It is also represented that upon the evacuation of Chattanooga by the enemy, Gen. Rosecrans, without satisfying himself thoroughly as to the real interests of his adversary, by reconnoissances and otherwise, proceeded to act on the assumption that Bragg was in full retreat, and upon that theory divided his command into three columns, and ordered them to move over three separate routes, twenty to thirty five miles apart from each other, for the purpose of intercepting the supposed flight of the enemy. This mistaken pursuit took the different parts of the army beyond supporting distance of each other, over lines of march converging upon the position assumed by Bragg, so that they were exposed to the danger of successive attack and destruction by the whole rebel force. And it is added that this division of his forces, besides being in itself indefensible on military principles, was also in open violation of specific instructions from Gen. Halleck in this city. And when Gen. Rosecrans had discovered his mistake as to the movements of the enemy, and the necessity of rescuing his army from the peril of destruction in detail, he made his dispositions so unskillfully, it is charged, that the army was drawn into a general action while making a movement by the left flank—a disadvantage which brought it to the verge of defeat at the very beginning of the conflict, and rendered it impossible for our troops to win the battle of the 19th of last September—the first of the conflicts which resulted in the repulse of Chickamauga.

Gen. Rosecrans is also severely censured by the official reviewer for abandoning the field of battle and retreating to Chattanooga while the sound of battle clearly indicated that Gen. Thomas was still making a stubborn resistance to the enemy in his front.

The Tribune concludes its summary as follows: "Thus it seems that, had Gen. Rosecrans carried out Gen. Halleck's instructions, the loyal people would have never had to mourn over a disaster to the Army of the Cumberland. We will not say that battle was avoidable; but we hold that it could have been fought on our own terms as to time and place instead of those of the enemy, and that in that contingency quite another result would have followed."

"The reverses on the Chickamauga, of course, controlled the recent operations of Gen. Grant. These have been successful; but it should not be forgotten that with them a double expenditure of life and limb has been incurred, and that the preparation for the effort to relieve the discomfited army of September has set up the season for the contemplated fall campaign into the interior of Georgia, and renders necessary the postponement of further offensive movements in that quarter until next spring."

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

The Virginia (loyal) Legislature met at Alexandria on Monday last, in the chambers of the City Councils.

The following members were present and were duly qualified by taking the oath of office, viz: F. W. Lemoey, of Norfolk and Princess Anne; Mr. Mercer, of Loudoun; T. M. Brown, of Fairfax; Thos. H. Kelum, of Accomac, and Mr. Whitehair, of Norfolk city. Mr. L. C. P. Cowper, appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Lieutenant Governor Polley, also appeared, and having been sworn into office, took the chair as presiding officer in the body. Frederick A. Augustine, of Fairfax, was chosen clerk; E. E. Mason, of Fairfax, sergeant-at-arms, and Wm. Hough, of Loudoun, doorkeeper. As soon as the organization was completed an adjournment took place till Tuesday.

In the House of Delegates there were present Reuben Johnson, of Alexandria county; James W. Brownley and R. E. Nash, of the county of Norfolk and city of Portsmouth; Dr. J. J. Henshaw and J. M. Downey, of Loudoun county; John R. Birch, of Northampton county, and Enoch Hailieff, of Prince William county. A temporary organization was effected by calling R. Johnson to the chair and appointing George Tucker clerk, after which an adjournment took place to Tuesday, when the message of Gov. Pierpont was expected to be presented.

Many of the members elect were not in attendance. They were expected to arrive on Tuesday.

NEWS FROM LATE RICHMOND PAPERS.

Gen. Lee, in a despatch dated at Orange Court-House on the 2d instant, informs the Confederate authorities of the retreat of Gen. Meade during the preceding night. He says that pursuit was made on the morning of the 2d instant, and that the Federal army had recrossed the Rapid Ann, and only a few prisoners were made.

ORANGE COURT-HOUSE, DECEMBER 6, 1863. The enemy have recrossed the Rapid-Ann to Culpeper by the ford as they came without a fight. One hundred prisoners were taken to Richmond to day. Nothing was left by the enemy in its retreat. The whole army was on this side of the river. Five hundred prisoners were captured during this raid.

ORANGE COURT-HOUSE, DECEMBER 4, 1863. Two hundred and fifty men and prisoners were received last night, picked up by our cavalry in pursuit of the enemy. They represent five corps of infantry and three divisions of cavalry. Our scouts report that the enemy's infantry have fallen back to Fauquier, behind the Rappahannock, leaving only their cavalry in Culpeper. They burnt and destroyed everything in the country occupied by them on this side of the river, reducing the inhabitants to beggary.

A despatch from Jackson (Miss.) states that the Federal cavalry crossed the Big Black River on the 3d instant, in force, and were ranging towards Canton.

The Senate of Georgia has postponed indefinitely, by a large majority, the bill restricting the planting of cotton to one acre for each estate. The Legislature is to adjourn on the 12th instant.

GEN. BRAGG RELIEVED FROM COMMAND.

A despatch from Dalton, dated the 2d instant, states that Gen. Bragg had been relieved from his command at his own request. On the preceding night he was serenaded by the band of the Fourth Florida brigade, and being called out, said that he accepted, with gratitude and heartfelt thanks, the compliment tendered him. The association long existing between them, he said, would cease the next day. He took a long and sad farewell of his troops, with the assurance that the memory of association with them would ever hold fresh in his mind. Generals Bate, Breckinridge, and Hardee were also serenaded, and made appropriate speeches. This news refutes the report that Gen. Breckinridge had been killed at Ringgold.

THE INTENDED PUNISHMENT OF BURNSIDE.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 5th instant, in anticipation of the capture of Gen. Burnside by Gen. Longstreet, commends the following paragraph of the Petersburg Express as making a "practical suggestion" as to the proper disposition to be made of so distinguished a prisoner:

"Should a kind, just Providence so will it that Burnside should fall into our hands, we trust that a cell in some prison, with a shaved head, coarse fare, prison garb, &c., will be instantly awarded him, as it was by his order that Gen. Morgan was subjected to the outrage which he has endured. In this instance we are for the *lex talionis* in its strictest sense. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is imperatively demanded, and it is the only mode by which we can compel the Yankees to conduct the war in accordance with the usages of civilized nations."

THE SIEGE OF KNOXVILLE RAISED.

Despatches from Dalton and Atlanta, dated the 4th instant, announce that Longstreet has raised the siege of Knoxville and is marching towards Abingdon, (Va.) Gen. Bushrod Johnson had succeeded in effecting a junction with Longstreet without the loss of his supply train as previously reported. Gen. Vaughn, with his command, and one of Cheatham's regiments, was at Charleston, (Tenn.) trying to make his way to North Carolina.

REBEL LOSS IN ARTILLERY.

A despatch, dated at Dalton on the 3d instant, says: "Our loss in artillery in the late battle was thirty-eight pieces, lost from the following batteries: Ferguson's, 4 guns; Howland's, 2; McCants', 2; Dent's, 5; Scott's, 4; Foster's, 3; Faler's, 3; Garley's, 1; Oliver's, 1; Anderson's, 1; Slocumb's, 6; Cobb's, 4; Harris', 2; Massena's, 4. Two siege guns were burnt at Chickamauga station. The number does not equal that taken by us from the enemy at the battle of Chickamauga."

THE UNION PRISONERS AT RICHMOND.

The Richmond Dispatch states the number of Union prisoners confined in the prisons and around Richmond, as shown by the official report of the 13th ultimo. Its figures are as follows: Prisoners of war, 12,747; citizen prisoners, 3; Yankee deserters, 3; negroes, 22; total, 12,775. Among these are nine hundred and fifty-three commissioned officers of different grades, from brigadier general down to third lieutenant.

RICHMOND MARKET, DEC. 3, 1863.	
Apples, per barrel.....	\$50 00 a \$75 00
Baron, per lb.....	75 25 a 3 00
Beans, per bushel.....	15 00 a 20 00
Beef, fresh, per lb.....	75 a 80
Beef, salted, per lb.....	80 a 85
Butter, per lb.....	35 00 a 40 00
Coffee, per lb.....	9 00 a 10 00
Corn, per bushel.....	11 00 a 13 00
Corn meal, per barrel.....	10 00 a 108 00
Cheese, per lb.....	3 50 a 7 00
Candies, tallow, per lb.....	3 75 a 4 00
Flour, superfine, per barrel.....	12 00 a 12 50
Hay, per 100 lbs.....	12 00 a 15 00
Wheat, per bushel.....	65 00 a 75 00
Onions, per bushel.....	30 00 a 34 00
Potatoes, Irish, per bushel.....	6 00 a 10 00
Sugar—Brown, per lb.....	3 00 a 3 25
Crushed, per lb.....	4 00 a 5 00
Wheat, per bushel.....	11 00 a 12 50
Specie—gold, per ounce.....	115 00 a 120 00
silver.....	95 00 a 100 00

ENLISTED MINORS.

Judge Advocate HOLT has decided that the President's late proclamation suspending the writ of habeas corpus undoubtedly includes in its provisions the case of a minor enlisted without his parents' consent, in whose behalf, therefore, such writ cannot be issued; that minors be between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one years cannot be discharged at all; that minors under eighteen cannot be discharged if in their oath of enlistment it is set forth that they are fully of that age, and that in case a minor actually under eighteen, whose age is correctly stated in his oath, or who has been enlisted or mustered without taking a formal oath, a discharge can be obtained only upon a full statement of all the facts in proper form, addressed to the discretion of the Secretary of War.

SECRETARY CHASE'S RESOURCES.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times says that Mr. Secretary Chase, at the last session, took great care to provide against any contingency which might arise from Congress being opposed to the Administration and the prosecution of the war. Without any further financial legislation by this Congress, the Secretary had within his grasp on the 1st of December \$1,100,000,000, as follows:

Balance of Five-twenty-fives unsold.....	\$115,000,000
Balance of Fifty Million Loan.....	10,000,000
Balance in Treasury.....	29,000,000
Balance in Legal Tenders.....	40,000,000
Balance in Interest-bearing Treasury Notes.....	350,000,000
Balance in Treasury Notes.....	70,000,000
Balance in Internal Revenue Notes.....	80,000,000
Balance in Ten-Forty Loan Notes.....	400,000,000
Total.....	\$1,084,000,000

THIRTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1863.

IN SENATE.

This day being the day fixed by the Constitution of the United States for the meeting of Congress, the Capitol was crowded by throngs of spectators at an early hour. The galleries and lobbies of the two Houses were filled to overflowing.

In the SENATE the credentials of Messrs. Van Winkle and Willey, elected as members from the State of West Virginia, were presented by Mr. Collamer. The credentials of Mr. Conness, elected Senator from the State of California, were presented, and he appeared, was qualified, and took his seat. The credentials of Mr. Henderson, re-elected a Senator from the State of Missouri, were presented, and he appeared and was qualified.

Mr. DAVIS raised a question as to the propriety of administering the oath to the Senators elect from West Virginia. He doubted whether they were legally and constitutionally Senators. There was no such State as that of West Virginia, and consequently there could be no Senators from such a State. The question was, simply, whether the Senate should recognize the State of West Virginia as a State of the United States. There was but one State of Virginia, legally and constitutionally. He did not believe the Old Dominion could, polypos-like, be divided into several living fragments. New States could be admitted in conformity with the Constitution, but in this case the proceeding was, in his opinion, in direct violation of the Constitution. He moved to lay the matter on the table.

After some conversation as to the proper and usual mode of reaching the object, which was a decision of the Senate upon the admission of the Senators, in which the President and Messrs. Davis, Collamer, Foote, Hale, Fessenden, and others took part, the motion of Mr. Davis was varied so as to present the question directly upon the right of the Senators elect to be qualified.

On the proposition in this form Mr. Davis called for the yeas and nays, and there appeared, on a call of the roll, yeas 36, nays 5, to wit: Messrs. Buckalew, Davis, Henderson, McDougall, and Powell.

The Senators elect from the State of West Virginia were then qualified and took their seats.

Mr. Sherman submitted a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary inquire and report whether Robert Wilson, of Missouri, is still a member of this body.

Mr. JANE, of Indiana, gave notice of bills to repeal the three-hundred dollar clause in the enrollment act, and to increase the pay of officers and non-commissioned officers of the army fifty per cent.

A committee was appointed, as usual, to wait on the President, in conjunction with any committee of the House, and inform him that the two Houses are organized and ready to proceed to business. The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

At 12 o'clock the Hon. EMERSON ETHERIDGE, the Clerk of the House, called the Representatives to order, and said that he would proceed to call the roll of members, and of those only whose credentials he thought they were regularly elected in accordance with the laws of their States, respectively, or the laws of the United States.

The Clerk then read the names of nearly all the States, and said that other gentlemen had filed credentials which had not been placed on the roll because they did not show what, in the opinion of the Clerk, was designed by the act of Congress of March last.

The act here alluded to was approved on the 3d of March last, and provides as follows:

"That before the first meeting of the next Congress, and of every subsequent Congress, the Clerk of the next preceding House of Representatives shall make a roll of the Representatives elect, and place thereon the names of all persons, and of such persons only, whose credentials show that they were regularly elected in accordance with the laws of their States, respectively, or the laws of the United States."

The names omitted from the roll were those of members from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Oregon, Missouri, and Kansas.

After a conversation on the subject, the Clerk read the credentials, which he regarded as in proper form, of the members from Maryland.

Mr. DAWES moved that the names of the Maryland members be entered upon the roll, and demanded the previous question.

Mr. J. C. ALLEN moved to lay that motion on the table; and the question being taken, it was decided in the negative—yeas 74, nays 94.

The resolution offered by Mr. DAWES was then adopted, and the names of the Maryland delegation ordered to be placed upon the roll.

Mr. DAVIS, of Maryland, offered a resolution to admit the names of the Missouri members to the roll, and this was also adopted.

A similar course was pursued in relation to the Representatives from Oregon, Kansas, and West Virginia, all of whose names were thus ordered to be entered on the roll. Mr. STEVENS offered a resolution to strike from the roll the names of the gentlemen who were elected as Representatives from Louisiana. Their credentials were signed by J. L. Riddell, Governor of Louisiana.

Mr. STEVENS afterwards withdrew this motion, promising to renew it when the members should present themselves to be sworn.

A resolution was then offered to admit the members from Virginia, which was agreed to.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER.

On motion of Mr. WASHBURN the House then proceeded to the election of a Speaker, *sine voce*.

Mr. WASHBURN nominated Mr. COLFAX.

Mr. PENDLETON nominated Mr. COX.

Mr. ANCONA nominated Mr. DAWSON.

Mr. GRIDER nominated Mr. MALLORY.

Mr. STEELE, of New York, nominated Mr. STEBBINS.

Messrs. KING and F. P. BLAIR were also nominated.

The House proceeded to vote, with the following result—Messrs. Pendleton, Dawes, Wadsworth, and Fomroy acting as tellers:

For Mr. Colfax: Messrs. Allen, Allison, Ames, Anderson, Arnold, Ashley, Baker, Baxter, Beaman, Blair, Blair of West Virginia, Blow, Boutwell, Boyd, Brandegee, Broomall, Brown of West Virginia, Ambrose W. Clark, Freeman, Clark, Clay, Cobb, Cole, Cresswell, Davis of Maryland, Davis of New York, Denney, Denning, Dennison, Dixon, Donnelly, Driggs, Dumont, Eckley, Eliot, Farnsworth, Fenton, Frank, Garfield, Good, Grinnell, Hale, Higby, Hooper, Hotchkiss, Hubbard of Iowa, Hubbard of New York, Hubbard of Connecticut, Jenckes, Johnson, Kason, Kelley, Kellogg of Michigan, Kellogg of New York, Keran, Littlejohn, Loan, Longyear, Lovejoy, McAllister, McBride, McClurg, McIndoe, Miller of New York, Moorehead, Morrill, Morris of New York, Ames Myers of Pennsylvania, Leonard Myers of Pennsylvania, Norton, O'Neil of Pennsylvania, Orr, Patterson, Perham, Pike, Pottery, Price, Rice of Massachusetts, Rice of Maine, Rollins of New Hampshire, Schenck, Scofield, Shannon, Sloan, Smith, Smithers, Spaulding, Starr, Stevens, Thayer, Tracy, Upson, Van Valkenburg, Washburn of Illinois, Washburne of Massachusetts, Webster, Winslow, Williams, Wilder, Wilson, Windom, and Woodbridge.

For Mr. Cox: Messrs. James C. Allen, William J. Allen, Augustus C. Baldwin, Bliss, Brown, Graves, Dana, Eden, Edgerton, Eldridge, English, Finck, Harrington,

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1863.

Charles M. Harris, Herrick, Holman, Hutchins, William Johnson, Keith-Edick, Knapp, Law, Le Blond, Long, May, McDowell, McKenney, Middleton, James R. Morris, Morrison, Noble, John O'Neal, Pendleton, Perry, Robinson, Rogers, Ross, William G. Steele, Stuart, Voorhees, Wheeler, Chilton A. White, and Joseph W. Whitcomb, Ward, and Yeaman.

For Mr. Dawson: Messrs. Ancon, Bailey, Colgroff, Cox, Dennison, Philip Johnson, Luzzar, McAllister, William M. Miller, Samuel J. Randall, Stiles, and Strouse.

For Mr. Mallory: Messrs. Brooks, Grider, Harding, Benjamin G. Harbo, King, James S. Rollins, Stuart, Wadsworth, Ward, and Yeaman.

For Mr. King: Messrs. Chandler, Hall, Mallory, Radford, Se-tt, and Fernando Wood.

For Mr. Stebbins: Messrs. Ganson, Griewood, Kernan, Nelson, Dell, Prunty, John B. Steele, and Winifred M. For Mr. Blair, of Missouri: Messrs. Cottman and Field. For Mr. Stiles: Mr. B. Wood.

Mr. Colfax..... 101
Mr. Stebbins..... 8
Mr. Cox..... 42
Mr. King..... 6
Mr. Dawson..... 12
Mr. F. P. Blair..... 2
Mr. Mallory..... 10
Mr. Stiles..... 1

Number of votes cast..... 192
Necessary to elect..... 96

The tellers having proclaimed the result of the vote, the Clerk announced that, in accordance with the laws of Congress, the Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX was duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Thirty-eighth Congress.

Mr. COLFAX was then conducted to the chair by Messrs. DAWSON, of Pennsylvania, and COX, of Ohio, and before taking his seat he addressed the House as follows:

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: To-day will be marked in American history as the opening of a Congress destined to face and settle the most important questions of the century, and during whose extension the rebellion, which has passed its culmination, will, beyond all question, thanks to our army and navy, and Administration, die a deserved death. Not only will you combat the rebellion with the strictest scrutiny, but deliberations here, but the friends of liberty, to the most distant lands, will be interested spectators of your acts in this greater than Roman forum. I invoke you to approach these grave questions with the calm thoughtfulness of statesmen, free from the distractions from that severity which delays instead of advancing legislation, and with unshaken reliance on that Divine Power, which gave victory to those who formed this Union, and can give even greater victory to those who are seeking to save it from destruction by the hands of traitors.

I invoke you also to remember that sacred truth, which all history verifies, that "they who rule not in righteousness shall perish from the earth." Thanking you with a grateful heart for this distinguished mark of your confidence and regard, and appealing to you all for that support and forbearance by the aid of which alone I can hope to succeed, I am now ready to take the oath of office and enter upon the duties you have assigned me.

Mr. E. B. WASHBURN, being the senior member of the House, advanced to the area in front of the Speaker's chair and administered the new oath of office to the Speaker, who then proceeded to administer the same oath to the members of the House.

Mr. STEVENS, during the swearing in of the members, objected to the reception of the gentlemen from Louisiana.

Mr. BROOKS thought the usual course should be pursued—the members sworn in, and the case referred to the Committee on Elections. He asked to proceed with the organization, as the election of Speaker had shown that there would be no difficulty in electing the friends of the gentleman from Pennsylvania to the other offices.

Mr. STEVENS said it was not an extraordinary course; that there was no pretence of an election; and that the person signing their credentials no one had ever heard of as Governor.

The House refused to allow the oath to be administered, and the case was referred for examination.

After further discussion upon several contested points connected with the swearing in of delegations—The House adjourned.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1863.

In the SENATE, during the morning hour, Mr. CLARK, by consent, introduced a bill to grant a pension to John L. Burns, of Gettysburg. Mr. Burns is an octogenarian, but, notwithstanding his age, he shouldered a musket and fought against the enemy in the battles of Gettysburg.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, submitted a resolution of inquiry by the Committee on Military Affairs as to the legislation necessary to facilitate the payment of arrears of pay and pensions due to deceased soldiers.

Mr. DAVIS submitted a resolution declaring that the refusal of the rebel authorities to exchange negro soldiers and their white officers should not prevent the exchange of our other soldiers and officers in rebel prisons on just terms, such as